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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

Serial: M503/0049/81

1 September 1981

NSA review
completed

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, DCI SECURITY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Polygraph Programs in the Intelligence Community

1. (U) At the August meeting of the Security Committee the members voted to separate polygraph policy from the revision of DCID 1/14. You said that you would return DCID 1/14 to the Investigative Standards Working Group for completion of the revision by 1 November; and that you would prepare an option paper, concerning the polygraph, for the D/DCI (and/or the NFIC-NFIB). To assist you in the latter we recommend a number of options and approaches.

2. (U) We believe that a statement of polygraph policy could still be put in the revised DCID 1/14 in order to give some high level support, without mandating use of the polygraph. Under this option a Senior Intelligence Officer (SIO) could use the polygraph as a condition of access to SCI or at intervals thereafter. Suggested wording:

10.m. A personal interview of the individual will be conducted by trained security, investigative or counterintelligence personnel, prior to initiation of the field investigation, to review the individual's background and to cover those items discussed in Annex A (Adjudicators Guidelines). At the discretion of the SIO an interview with the aid of the polygraph may be conducted in accordance with departmental or agency regulations.

11. The scope of reinvestigations shall be determined by the SIO concerned based on such considerations as the potential damage that might result from the individual's defection or willful compromise of SCI and the availability and probable effectiveness of other means to continually evaluate factors related to the individual's suitability for continued access. In all cases, the reinvestigation shall include, as a minimum, appropriate National agency checks, local agency (including overseas checks where appropriate), credit checks and a personal discussion with the individual by trained investigative, security or counterintelligence personnel when necessary to resolve significant adverse

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information or inconsistencies. At the discretion of the SIO, and in accordance with departmental or agency regulations an interview with the aid of a polygraph may be conducted.

The DCID or some other issuance (see below) could also authorize, but not mandate, the use of the polygraph for access to specific information, programs or locations, i.e., after a person already has SCI access and not necessarily as part of the fiveyear update.

3. (U) Another option would be to have the D/DCI, by a memorandum to the NFIC encourage the use of the polygraph, under the terms stated in paragraph two, above.

4. (U) A third option would be to have the NFIC/NFIE adopt a statement of policy prepared by the Security Committee, again under the terms stated in paragraph two.

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6. (U) As we've said before, the Security Committee should not fail to take advantage of the relatively favorable climate concerning the polygraph. Apparently a blanket, mandatory polygraph program is not practical. But we should encourage SIOs and help them overcome internal difficulties. Some positive, if permissive, statements of policy from the highest level possible, are needed.

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